

# Newsroom

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Georgia Southern University

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# Georgia Southern included on prestigious 2018 Green Ribbon Schools list by U.S. Department of Education

MAY 31, 2018

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Georgia Southern University has been included on the prestigious 2018 [Green Ribbon Schools](#) list by the U.S. Department of Education for its environmental accomplishments. Areas of recognition include sustainability, health, physical education, safety policies, food service and environmental and sustainability curriculum.

"It is a great honor to be recognized by the U.S. Department of Education for our sustainability accomplishments," said Lissa Leege, Ph.D., Center for Sustainability director. "We have made great strides in recent years toward water conservation and energy efficiency measures, as well as working toward a culture of sustainability at Georgia Southern through education and action. This award supports those efforts and gives us encouragement to implement even more green initiatives as our University grows and changes."

Notably, Georgia Southern students had the vision to develop and vote for a student sustainability fee that has supported significant investment in innovative sustainability solutions on the Statesboro campus. The fee funds an array of projects from electric vehicle charging stations to vertebrate biodiversity surveys to bioswale development and LED lighting upgrades.

Through the works of the Division of Facilities Services, the University has offset approximately eight million kilowatt-hours of energy over the past five years, or enough to provide energy for 643 homes for one year. The University also utilizes reuse water to irrigate parts of campus, saving up to 200,000 gallons of drinking water in a single day.

"We are thrilled to be selected for a 2018 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools postsecondary sustainability award, which demonstrates our focus on becoming a national leader in sustainability," said Associate Vice President of Facilities Kathryn Twining, CEFP. "This achievement would not have been possible without the partnerships and commitment to sustainable practices by all departments on campus that make the University operate more efficiently, which results in a healthier environment for our students."

Across the country, 46 schools, six districts and six postsecondary institutions were honored for their innovative efforts to reduce environmental impact and utility costs, improve health and wellness and ensure effective sustainability education.

"I commend each school, district and institution of higher education for their efforts to create a healthy, safe and cost-efficient learning environment for students, faculty and staff," stated U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos. "These schools have done innovative work to help prepare students for the challenges of the 21st century while also teaching them how to be good stewards of the environment."

The honorees were selected from a pool of candidates nominated by 25 states and the Department of Defense Education Activity. The selectees include 40 public schools, including two magnet schools and two charter schools,

as well as six nonpublic schools. Forty-five percent of the 2018 honorees serve a disadvantaged student body.

For the full list of all 2018 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools honorees, visit <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools/awards.html>.

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/Research institution founded in 1906, offers 141 degree programs serving more than 27,000 students through nine colleges on three campuses in Statesboro, Savannah, Hinesville and online instruction. A leader in higher education in southeast Georgia, the University provides a diverse student population with expert faculty, world-class scholarship and hands-on learning opportunities. Georgia Southern creates lifelong learners who serve as responsible scholars, leaders and stewards in their communities. Visit [GeorgiaSouthern.edu](http://GeorgiaSouthern.edu).

# Elaris Duo to host 2018 inaugural Elaris Summer String Academy on Georgia Southern's Armstrong Campus

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Two Georgia Southern University faculty members will lead the inaugural Elaris Summer String Academy, an intensive training in chamber music for string players, June 1–5, at the Armstrong Campus in Savannah.

The Elaris Summer String Academy is open to committed string players between the ages of 13 and 23 and provides them the opportunity to study with the internationally acclaimed Elaris Duo and other world-renowned faculty. The academy will include intensive training in chamber music, collaborative music making, private instructions, coachings, master classes, workshops and a chamber orchestra experience that will culminate in a chamber orchestra concert on June 5 to showcase the accomplishments of the participants. Concerts available throughout the five day academy also include the Elaris Duo Informance on June 1 and the Student Chamber group recital on June 4. All concerts are free and open to the public. Donations will also be accepted.

“Chamber music is the most wonderful form of collaboration and communication,” said Associate Professor and one half of the Elaris Duo, Steven Elisha, DMA. “In the spirit of the newly consolidated Georgia Southern University, the Elaris Summer String Academy is a great representation of this union and coming together while celebrating one of the most favorite art forms. We are incorporating the highest level of instructions with fun music making for a wide-ranged age group.”

As the Elaris Duo, Larisa Elisha, DMA, and Steven Elisha have captivated audiences around the world including the Lithuanian Music and Theatre Academy, National Taiwan University of the Arts, the Bergen International Festival and other noted national and international festivals, venues and performing series.

Those who are interested in the Elaris Summer String Academy can find out more information on how to audition and register on the academy's website, [Georgiasouthern.edu/conted/elarissummer/](http://Georgiasouthern.edu/conted/elarissummer/).